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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

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Chapter III

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

1. The Population Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 454th and 455th meetings on 29 March 1994. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of work in the field of population, 1991-1993 (E/CN.9/1994/3);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1994-1995 (E/CN.9/1994/4).

2. The report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (ACC/1992/20) was made available to the Commission.

3. Before its general debate on programme questions, the Commission was informed about the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. Technical cooperation activities in the field of population, previously the responsibility of the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, had been incorporated into the work programme of the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, formerly the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

4. The Commission was also informed about the substantive preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development carried out by the Population Division during the period 1991-1993. Detailed reports on those activities had been submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second and third sessions for discussion and action.

5. Many delegates praised the high quality of work of the Population Division. The publications and other materials produced by the Division were considered exemplary and were reported to be widely utilized throughout the world by Governments, universities, research centres and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

6. The Commission stressed the importance of maintaining the scientific objectivity and independence of the Population Division. The Commission believed that it was vital to maintain the highest scientific standards in reviewing and appraising demographic levels and trends and population policies and programmes. To that effect and in the context of the numerous population challenges lying ahead in every country, the Commission recommended that the Population Division be strengthened.

A. Programme performance and implementation

1. Analysis of demographic variables at the world level

7. The Commission noted with satisfaction the publication of the report entitled Child Mortality Since the 1960s: A Database for Developing Countries 1/ and its use in the monitoring of mortality in childhood. Its timeliness was commended, particularly because the data it contained would prove useful in assessing progress towards achieving the goals for the reduction of infant and under-five mortality adopted at the World Summit for Children in 1990.

8. The Commission took note of the completion of the study analysing the effects of reproductive behaviour on child survival. The results, to be published under the title The Health Rationale for Family Planning: Timing of Births and Child Survival, were found to have special policy relevance since they showed that, even in the presence of other health interventions, the use of family planning to prevent child-bearing among teenagers and to increase the interval between consecutive births could significantly reduce child mortality.

9. The Commission noted with interest the publication of the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on the Feminization of Internal Migration under the title Internal Migration of Women in Developing Countries. 2/ The Meeting, which took place at Aguascalientes, Mexico, in October 1991, was recognized as having made a major contribution to the understanding of internal migration in general and of the role of women in the migration process in particular. Women were said to constitute about half of all internal migrants, and their growing participation in internal migration had been closely associated with the expansion of employment opportunities in a number of developing countries. The Commission took note of the recommendations to improve the prospects of migrant women included in the proceedings of the Meeting.

10. In the area of international migration, the Commission was informed of the continued updating of the data bank on international migration, its further computerization and its use in the monitoring of international migration trends. Although the study on forced migration proposed to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session could not be carried out because of lack of funds, the Commission was pleased to note that an analysis of the refugee situation had been selected as the special topic included in the World Population Monitoring, 1993. 4/ The Commission acknowledged the forthcoming publication of the proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants and of a paper entitled "Europe without internal frontiers and international migration" in a forthcoming issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

11. The Commission was informed that work on the substantive preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development included the organization of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and Migration which was held at Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in January 1993. A report on the Expert Group Meeting had been presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second session, held in May 1993 (E/CONF.84/PC/9).

12. The Commission was pleased to learn that several projects in the area of fertility had been completed during 1991-1993. Three case-studies on the association of women's status and fertility had been published - namely: Women's Education and Fertility Behaviour: A Case-study of Rural Maharashtra; 3/ Fertility Transition and Women's Life Course in Mexico; 4/ and Women's Status and Fertility in Pakistan: Recent Evidence. 5/ In addition, a global comparative study on low fertility entitled Patterns of Fertility in Low-fertility Settings, 6/ had been published.

13. The Commission was informed that research on the status of women was further expanded by a comparative analysis of 26 countries which would be published under the title Women's Education and Fertility Behaviour: Recent Evidence from the Demographic and Health Surveys. The study reviewed recent trends in women's educational status in developing countries and updated existing evidence on the direct and indirect linkages between education and reproductive behaviour, marriage and desired family size.

14. Work on the status of women was also approached through a comprehensive household study. The report, entitled Living Arrangements of Women and their Children in the Third World: A Demographic Study, was to be published in 1994.

15. The Commission was pleased to learn about the new computerized databases on fertility and family planning and strongly endorsed continuation of the recent practice of disseminating information on those topics in multiple formats, including wall charts and diskettes as well as analytic reports.

16. The Commission was informed that, in the area of family planning and its demographic impact, a study on levels and trends of contraceptive use would be completed in 1994. In addition, a wall chart on the levels of contraceptive use and types of method was planned for release before the 1994 Conference. An article summarizing recent levels and trends in contraceptive practice would

also appear in a forthcoming issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

17. The Commission was pleased to note that information about contraceptive knowledge and use had also been made available in machine-readable form. A set of eight contraceptive-use data diskettes with an accompanying user's manual entitled World Contraceptive Use Data Diskettes, 1991 (ST/ESA/SER.R/120), had been issued in 1992. The contraceptive-use data bank was being updated continuously within the Population Division.

18. The Commission was informed that a study analysing the effects of improved child survival on fertility had been completed. The study, which included three country case-studies, on Ecuador, West Timor Island, Indonesia and Zimbabwe, would be published under the title Child Survival, Health and Family Planning Programmes and Fertility.

19. The Commission was informed that work on the substantive preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development had included the organization of the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women, held at Gaborone, Botswana, in June 1992, and of the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being, held at Bangalore, India, in October 1992. Reports on those two meetings had been presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second session, held in May 1993 (E/CONF.84/PC/6 and 7).

2. World population projections

20. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the completion of the 1992 revision of the thirteenth round of global estimates and projections of population and with the timely publication of the results in World Population Prospects: The 1992 Revision, 7/ The Sex and Age Distribution of the World Populations: The 1992 Revision, 8/ and the United Nations World Population Chart, 1992. 9/ The Commission noted with pleasure the analytical comparison of the results of United Nations population projections over the past 20 years .

21. The Commission noted with appreciation the improvements in the new revision - particularly the incorporation of the effects of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) into the projections - and the additions and changes in the list of countries for which detailed projections were performed. The Commission was informed that the 1994 revision was under way and would include cohort-component projections by sex and age for 26 additional countries.

22. The Commission was pleased to note that the 1992 revision of the global estimates and projections of urban and rural populations was completed on time, and that the results were published in World Urbanization Prospects: The 1992 Revision. 10/

23. The Commission noted with satisfaction that in the estimates and projections of urban agglomerations, the time horizon was extended to 2010 and the minimum size lowered to 750,000. The Commission noted the publication of the second edition of the wall chart Urban Agglomerations, 1992. 11/

24. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the timeliness of the 1992 revisions and variety of ways in which they had been disseminated to users, including monographs, wall charts, specialized data sheets, articles, detailed publications, and in machine-readable form.

25. The Commission took note of the publication in 1992 of Preparing Migration Data for Subnational Population Projections. 12/

26. The Commission noted with satisfaction the publication in 1992 of Long-range World Population Projections: Two Centuries of Population Growth, 1950-2150. 13/

27. The Commission was informed that the seventeenth session of the Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had been held in Rome in June 1992. The Commission was pleased to note that the Population Division, at the request of the ACC Subcommittee, had issued a working paper entitled "Urban and rural areas by sex and age: the 1992 revision" (ESA/P/WP/120).

28. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the extensive work done to incorporate the effects of AIDS into demographic estimates and projections and was pleased to note the forthcoming publication of AIDS and the Demography of Africa.

3. Population policy and socio-economic development

29. The Commission was pleased to be informed that a project on the status of women and population policies had been completed during the period. As part of the project, the United Nations Nuptiality Chart, 1991 14/ was issued. The major output of the project was a three-volume publication entitled Abortion Policies: A Global Review, 15/ which analysed the evolution of abortion law and practice in 190 countries. In addition, a wall chart summarizing some of the key information from the three volumes had been published.

30. The Commission was informed that a case-study focusing on the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies in Argentina was issued in 1992. 16/ This was the last case-study in the series issued under the general title Case Studies in Population Policy.

31. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a project on the world's largest urban agglomerations was completed during the period. The project's major output, a volume containing profiles that focus on the demographic characteristics, economy, infrastructure, social services, and population policies of more than 100 of the world's largest cities from all world regions, had been submitted for publication. As part of the project, a database on the world's largest agglomerations was also completed and was available on diskette.

32. The Commission was informed that, as part of the ongoing work programme of the Population Division, research on policy issues in the world's mega-cities

was continuing, with the publication of a case-study on population growth and policies in São Paulo, 17/ the thirteenth publication in the mega-cities series.

33. One of the major activities in population policy during the biennium 1992-1993 was the Expert Group Meeting on Population Policies and Programmes, which was held at Cairo in April 1992. The Commission noted with appreciation the publication of the proceedings of the Meeting, entitled Population Policies and Programmes. 18/

34. The Commission was informed that analysis of the results of the Seventh United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments, which was to have been completed during the biennium 1992-1993, had been postponed until 1994 because the replies from many Governments were received only recently. The Commission was pleased to be informed that, overall, the quality of the replies was excellent, with rich and useful information on new and emerging population policy issues, such as policies in response to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS pandemic.

35. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the population policy data bank had been expanded. In 1992, the third edition of the population policy database, Global Population Policy Data Base (ST/ESA/SER.R/118) and Global Policy Diskette Documentation (ST/ESA/SER.R/117) had been issued. However, the fourth edition, which was due to have been issued in 1993, was postponed until 1994 in order to incorporate recently received replies to the Seventh Inquiry.

36. Regarding work relating population to development issues, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the third module of the manual Techniques for Preparing Projections of Household and Other Incomes, Household Consumption and Savings and Government Consumption and Investment (ST/ESA/SER.R/90/Add.2) had been published and that all population and development methods presented in the three modules of the manual had been made available in the form of a microcomputer software program called PDPM/PC, version 1.0, and a user's guide (ST/ESA/SER.R/123).

37. The Commission was informed that reports documenting the experiences of integrated population and development planning in three countries had been published: Thailand (ST/ESA/SER.R/110), Turkey (ST/ESA/SER.R/112) and India (ST/ESA/SER.R/114).

38. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the proceedings of the United Nations International Symposium on Population and Development Planning, organized in 1989 in Riga by the Population Division, in collaboration with the Latvian State University and the Moscow State University, had been published (ST/ESA/SER.R/116).

39. The Commission noted that work under the project aimed at assessing the demographic consequences of major development projects had been completed and that an overview report on three case-studies (Costa Rica, India and Morocco) would be issued as a working paper.

40. The Commission was informed that work under the project on the demographic and socio-economic consequences of demographic ageing in selected developing

countries had been completed and that two case-studies had been published: Argentina (ST/ESA/SER.R/113) and India (State of Kerala) (ST/ESA/SER.R/119).

41. The Commission was pleased to learn that the proceedings of the International Conference on Ageing Populations in the Context of the Family, which was organized in 1990 by the Population Division and the Municipal Government of Kitakyushu, Japan, in collaboration with the Japan Aging Research Centre, the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), had been submitted for publication.

42. The Commission was informed that the Population Division, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and San Diego State University, had organized a Round Table on the Ageing of Asian Populations which met in Bangkok in 1992. The proceedings of the Round Table had been submitted for publication.

43. The Commission was informed that work on the substantive preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development included the organization of two expert group meetings. The first, the Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and Development had been convened in New York in January 1992. A report on the meeting had been presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second session, held in May 1993 (E/CONF.84/PC/4), and proceedings of the meeting had been submitted for publication. The second, the Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure, had been convened in Paris in November 1992. A report on the meeting had also been presented to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second session held in May 1993.

4. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

44. The monitoring of world population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action are discussed in chapter II.

45. The Commission was pleased to learn that, in spite of the additional responsibilities the Population Division had taken on in terms of substantive preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, it had maintained a high level of output in its overall dissemination programme. During the period 1991-1993, 33 research studies, technical manuals, proceedings of expert group meetings and seminars and wall charts had been issued, in addition to six issues of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations and the Population Newsletter. In response to an increasing demand for information in computer-readable form, 14 new databases and software had been produced. The Commission was informed that the demand for publications remained strong and that efforts to improve dissemination continued.

46. The Population Commission was informed that since its twenty-sixth session, the activities of the global Population Information Network (POPIN) included convening the 5th POPIN advisory meeting at Geneva in September 1992 and

participation in POPIN exhibits at the Fourth Asian-Pacific Conference at Bali, Indonesia, in August 1992 and in the Working Group on the Management of the POPIN Thesaurus, which was convened in New York in September 1992 by the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED). The Commission was pleased to note the publication of the third edition of the POPIN Thesaurus in English, French and Spanish under the auspices of CICRED.

47. The Commission was pleased to learn that UNFPA had provided funding for POPIN and that a global POPIN Coordinator had been appointed on 1 October 1993. As one of its first activities, the reactivated global POPIN Coordinating Unit, along with the regional Population Information Networks and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had established an electronic population information service on the Internet. The service, known as the POPIN Gopher, included population resources such as journals and newsletters, software, statistical tables, bibliographic and demographic databases, news summaries, press releases and documentation of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission.

5. Technical cooperation in population

48. The Population Commission was informed of the technical assistance provided to 50 countries in the areas of population training, analysis of demographic and socio-economic data, population policy, and population and development. Formulation of population policies and strengthening of national capacities had been given special emphasis.

49. The Commission noted with satisfaction that joint short-term training and research with member States, institutions and the regional commissions in demographic data analysis, dissemination and utilization had been undertaken, with the aim of improving national capacities for microcomputer analysis of the 1990 round of population censuses.

50. The Population Commission was also informed of the new system of technical support services to population programmes in developing countries. Under the new arrangement, provision of technical advice and backstopping of projects at the country level had been decentralized to eight country support teams based in the major developing regions. The new system would utilize national and regional capabilities to bring technical cooperation closer to the countries concerned.

6. Demographic and social statistics

51. The Population Commission was informed that in the 1990 census round, 206 countries or areas had taken their population and/or housing censuses during 1985-1994. The Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis was currently engaged in preparations for the 2000 world population and housing census programme. In order to support countries in conducting population and housing censuses, work on a new series of population and housing census handbooks was continued. Two parts of the

handbook series, one dealing with census organization and the other dealing with selected demographic and social characteristics, had been published. Two other parts, dealing with economic characteristics and migration characteristics, would be issued during the biennium 1994-1995.

52. Work on vital statistics and civil registration included the implementation in developing countries of the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems. As part of the Programme, three workshops were held: in Buenos Aires, Damascus, and Beijing. Participants in the workshops underscored the need for a national master plan for the improvement of the systems and emphasized that countries themselves needed to make a commitment to accelerate improvement and rely largely on their own resources in implementing reforms.

53. In the field of social statistics, significant progress had been made on methodology and data collection relating to persons with disabilities. The data would be useful in the monitoring of disability at the community level.

54. The Commission was pleased to learn that an updated issue of The World's Women, 1970-1990, 19/ would be completed in 1995, in time for the Fourth International Conference on Women.

55. The Commission was informed that the publication of the annual Demographic Yearbook and of the quarterly Population and Vital Statistics Report continued on a regular basis. A special issue of the Yearbook dedicated to population ageing and the situation of elderly persons was completed and expected to be released shortly. In observance of the International Year of the Family, the Statistical Division had produced a statistical chart on world families, with the cooperation of the secretariat of the International Year of the Family.

56. The Statistical Division had also completed a project, with funding from UNFPA, to develop the Demographic and Social Statistics Database in a microcomputer-based system. When fully developed, the database would make available all demographic and related statistics disseminated through the United Nations Demographic Yearbook since 1948 for 220 countries and areas in the world.

57. In the area of technical cooperation, the success of the 1990 World Population Census Programme was largely due to technical cooperation activities undertaken by the Statistical Division, the regional commissions and others, with the financial support of UNFPA. The Statistical Division had executed more than 100 country projects each year during 1991-1993.

B. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995

1. Analysis of demographic variables at the world level

60. The Commission was informed that a study on differentials in child survival by sex had been initiated and was expected to be completed during the biennium 1994-1995. The need for reliable sex-specific estimates of infant and under-five mortality was stressed as was the policy relevance of understanding

better the processes leading to higher female than male mortality in childhood in certain contexts.

61. With respect to international migration, the Commission endorsed the preparation of a report on levels and trends of international migration that would draw on the data contained in the international migration data bank, whose updating and computerization would continue.

62. The Commission noted that, for the biennium 1994-1995, work had begun on a study of the family-building process. The study would examine changes in the timing of marriage, parity progression ratios and birth intervals in selected developing countries. It would consider the role of family planning as a factor influencing not only fertility levels but also the timing of births - particularly the occurrence of closely spaced births. In addition, a detailed study on the determinants of contraceptive use and an analysis of fertility in high-fertility countries would be undertaken. The Commission suggested that greater attention should be paid to consensual and temporary marital unions as a topic of study and as a factor influencing other demographic and social phenomena, including contraceptive practice.

2. World population projections

63. Recognizing the great demand for recurrent updating of the global estimates and projections of populations, the Population Commission recommended that the preparation of estimates and projections of population by country, urban and rural populations, and urban agglomerations continue.

64. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the 1994 revision of the global population estimates and projections was currently in preparation, that the projection horizon has been extended to 2050, and that the 1994 revision would provide age and sex distributions and demographic indicators for countries with 150,000 or more inhabitants, and for the numerous newly independent States.

65. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in the 1994 revision, the projection horizon will be 2015 for urban agglomerations and 2025 for urban and rural populations.

66. The Commission noted that the next session of the ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections would be held in June 1994 in New York and reiterated its support for the coordination activities of the Population Division, the regional commissions and the United Nations specialized agencies in the area of population and sectoral estimates and projections.

3. Population policy and socio-economic development

67. The Commission noted with satisfaction that a major activity in the area of population policy would be a new and expanded three-volume edition of World Population Policies. It would contain an in-depth analysis of population policies, particularly in terms of sustainable development, and greater emphasis on a number of new and emerging areas of population policy, such as women's

reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, refugees and asylum seekers, environmental issues, and urban management.

68. The Commission was informed that a major activity during the 1994-1995 biennium would be a project on international migration policies. It would entail preparing an analytical survey report on emerging policy issues at the forefront of governmental concern and systematically collecting information on governmental policies concerning the flow of immigrants, emigrants, migrant workers, dependents of migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants. International migration policies would be summarized and presented in a wall chart.

69. The Commission was pleased to note that the fifth editions of the population policy database Global Population Policy Data Base, 1995 and of Global Policy Diskette Documentation, 1995 were scheduled to be finalized by the end of the biennium.

70. The Commission noted with satisfaction that intermediate activities in the biennium would include two additional case-studies in the Population Growth and Policies in Mega-Cities series, as well as a study on AIDS policies.

71. The Commission noted with satisfaction that work on the relationships between population, resources, the environment and development had been given high priority. A report on a project funded by UNFPA aimed at investigating the current state of knowledge regarding the relationships between population and the environment in developing countries would be presented to the International Conference on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Commission recommended that the report be widely circulated among policy makers, scientists and the public.

4. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

72. The monitoring of world population trends and policies and the review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action are discussed in chapter II.

73. With respect to activities in the area of dissemination of population information, the Population Commission was informed that the Population Division would continue to issue all its recurrent and non-recurrent publications, continue to increase output in computer-readable form and continue its efforts to disseminate more widely and effectively the results of its research activities.

74. Concerning global POPIN, the Commission was pleased to learn that the POPIN Gopher would be expanded to include additional population resources. The global POPIN Coordinating Unit would also, in collaboration with UNFPA, set up an electronic library at Cairo for the International Conference on Population Development. During the 1994-1995 biennium POPIN would establish closer working relationships with the regional POPIN programmes.

5. Technical cooperation in population

75. The Commission was informed that during the 1994-1995 biennium, the number of country projects entirely executed by the Population Division would decrease as a result of decentralization. However, the five population specialists to be provided to the Population Division by UNFPA would provide substantive support to the eight country support teams. The Commission was informed that the new arrangements for technical support services would continue to emphasize the importance of population training.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XIII.10.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIII.3.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.12.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIII.5.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIII.6.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XIII.11.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.7.

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.3.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XIII.12.

10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.11.

11/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.2.

12/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XIII.6.

13/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XIII.3.

14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XIII.5.

15/ United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.92.XIII.8 and E.94.XIII.2. Vol. III is forthcoming.

16/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.19.

17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.9.

18/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XIII.5

19/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.3.